

Gillis' Legacy Reflects Value of Self-Sufficiency

LEGACY DONORS

Kelly and Dee Gillis want to offer a hand up to others, even after they are gone.

The couple recently established a Legacy Donor fund through the Tipp City Area Community Foundations that will focus on literacy.

They pointed to a Chinese proverb to help explain their goal: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

The Gillis Family Fund for Self-Sufficiency will provide support to organizations and programs that promote people 18 and over getting their GEDs or possibly help someone learn how to read, Dee Gillis said.

"In the old days you used to be able to leave high school and still make a decent living for your family. Now, that isn't so. You can't get a job without a high school education," Dee Gillis said. "We want to help people pick up their life and move on."

Kelly Gillis is retired from Vectren, while Dee Gillis retired from her cosmetology business.

She followed her mother into the career, initially in the Dayton area and Troy before opening her downtown Tipp City business. Kelly Gillis worked for the Troy

municipal power plant before it was sold to DP&L then, after a sale, for Vectren for a total of 37 years.

They have been married 44 years; have three children, Kelly Gillis Jr., Mary Gillis Smith and Jeanette Scott; and two grandchildren, Olivia and Gracie Gillis.

"Dee and I feel pretty fortunate in life. We just kept working, going forward," Kelly Gillis said.

They're busy in retirement. Dee is on Tipp City Council and serving as mayor. Kelly Gillis is the former Miami County Democratic Party chairman and is on the county Board of Elections.

"Kelly and I both grew up without advantages, but were able to make a good

life. That is much harder to do now. We want to pay it forward hoping in some way we left this world a better place," Dee Gillis said.

They chose to leave a legacy gift through the foundation because of their love of Tipp City, their trust in the foundation as an organization and low administration fees.

"We have a lot of faith in the foundation doing the right thing," Kelly Gillis said.

Dee Gillis agreed. "The foundation board is volunteers. They are all people in the community. You feel safe," she said. "Where else could you put your money that it would be a legacy, ongoing long after you are gone?"

*To Discuss Joining the Legacy Society, Please Contact
Jim Ranft, at 667-1270 or Heather Bailey at 667-4499.*

Tipp City Area Community Foundations

P.O. Box 626 | Tipp City, Ohio 45371
937-667-1270 | www.tippfoundation.org

